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survey  **Pronunciation Key** (sŭr-ˈvā, sŭr-ˈvā)
 v. surveyed, survey-ing, surveys
 n. *tr.*

1. To examine or look at comprehensively.
2. To inspect carefully; scrutinize: "Two women were surveying the other people on the platform" (Thomas Wolfe). See [Synonyms at *see*](#) ¹.
3. To determine the boundaries, area, or elevations of (land or structures on the earth's surface) by means of measuring angles and distances, using the techniques of geometry and trigonometry.
4. *(chiefly British)* To inspect and determine the structural condition of (a building).
5. To conduct a statistical survey on.
6. To range one's gaze leisurely over.

v. intr.

To make a survey.

n. pl. sur-veys (sŭr-ˈvā)

1. A detailed inspection or investigation.
2. A general or comprehensive view.

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3. A gathering of a sample of data or opinions considered to be representative of a whole.
4.
 - a. The process of surveying.
 - b. A report on or map of what has been surveyed.
 - c. An administrative agency charged with the responsibility of surveying: *the U.S. Geological Survey*.

[Middle English *surveien*, from Old French *surveier*, from Medieval Latin *supervidere*: Latin *super-*, *super-* + Latin *videre*, to look; see *vid-* in Indo-European Roots.]

survey *or n.*

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survey

Sur'vey *v.* *t.* [imp. & p. *Surveyed*; p. pr. & vb. n. *Surveying*.]
{*OF.* *surveier*, *surveier*, *sur*, *sur*, over, *E.* *sur* + *voir*, *voir*, to see, *F.* *voir*, *l.* *videre*. See *Sur-*, and *Vision*, and cf. *Supervise*.} 1. To inspect, or take a view of; to view with attention, as from a high place; to overlook; as, to stand on a hill, and survey the surrounding country.

Round he surveys and well might, where he stood, So high above.
—Milton.

2. To view with a scrutinizing eye; to examine.

With such altered looks. . . . All pale and speechless, he surveyed me round. —Dryden.

3. To examine with reference to condition, situation, value, etc.; to examine and ascertain the state of; as, to survey a building in order to determine its value and exposure to loss by fire.

4. To determine the form, extent, position, etc., of, as a tract of land, a coast, harbor, or the like, by means of linear and angular measurements, and the application of the principles of geometry and trigonometry; as, to survey land or a coast.

5. To examine and ascertain, as the boundaries and royalties of a manor, the tenure of the tenants, and the rent and value of the same.
[*Eng.*] —Jacob (*Law Dict.*).

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survey

\Sur'vey\, n. [Formerly accentuated universally on the last syllable, and still so accented by many speakers.] 1. The act of surveying; a general view, as from above.

Under his proud survey the city lies. —Sir J. Denham.

2. A particular view; an examination, especially an official examination, of all the parts or particulars of a thing, with a design to ascertain the condition, quantity, or quality; as, a survey of the stores of a ship; a survey of roads and bridges; a survey of buildings.

3. The operation of finding the contour, dimensions, position, or other particulars of, as any part of the earth's surface, whether land or water; also, a measured plan and description of any portion of country, or of a road or line through it.

Survey of dogs. See Court of regard, under Regard.

Trigonometrical survey, a survey of a portion of country by measuring a single base, and connecting it with various points in the tract surveyed by a series of triangles, the angles of which are carefully measured, the relative positions and distances of all parts being computed from these data.

Syn: Review; retrospect; examination; prospect.

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survey

n 1: a detailed critical inspection [syn: study] 2: short descriptive summary (of events) [syn: sketch, resume] 3: the act of looking or seeing or observing; "he tried to get a better view of it"; "his survey of the battlefield was limited" [syn: view, sight] v 1: consider in a comprehensive way; "He appraised the situation carefully before acting" [syn: appraise] 2: look over in a comprehensively. Inspect: "He surveyed his new classmates" 3: keep under surveillance; "The police had been following him for weeks but they could not prove his involvement in the bombing" [syn: surveil, follow] 4: hold a review (of troops) [syn: review, go over] 5: make a survey of, for statistical purposes 6: plot a map of (land)

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